

# COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health  
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

March, 1999

Volume 8, Number 3

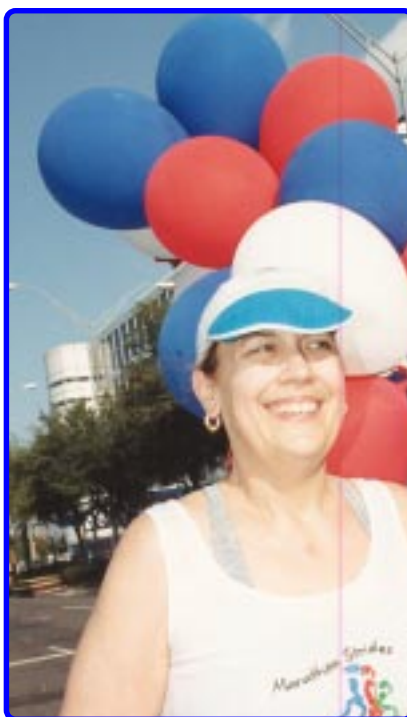
## Carol Dallred Runs for Multiple Sclerosis

Carol Dallred is a nurse, a mother, a runner and a fighter. While she devotes her time and energy providing care to others, she faces a daily health battle of her own -- multiple sclerosis (MS).

Dallred who is the director of Planned Parenthood Women's Advanced Care Center in Houston, a Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provider, was diagnosed with MS seven years ago.

At first, she was instructed to "take it easy," and that not much could be done to improve her health condition. Although she was treated with interferon and experimental drugs, things only got worse. She eventually had to use a cane to walk.

Dallred said she gained weight and did not feel well most of the time.



**Running a Good Race** --Carol Dallred, R.N., director of Planned Parenthood Women's Advanced Care Center, recently ran the Houston Marathon and raised money for multiple sclerosis.

"But I didn't give up," she said.

"What happens with MS is that a certain area of the brain or nervous system is eaten away and a plaque takes its place, so nerve impulses aren't transmitted very well from that area," Dallred said.

"As a nurse, I knew that people with strokes are rehabilitated by exercising and their

central nervous system forms new pathways and goes around the diseased areas. So my theory was that the same thing would happen with MS," she said.

Dallred began biking and eventually running. She recently finished her second Houston marathon. Her run and those of others on the Marathon Strides Against MS team helped raise money for MS. Dallred is the spokesperson in Houston for the Marathon Strides Against MS team.

MS is twice as common in women and generally first occurs in people in their 20's and 30's. Its cause is unknown, and it does not always result in severe disability.

Even though scores of treatments have appeared promising over the years, most results have been disappointing. Yet, doctors remain optimistic that new therapies will help change the course of MS.

Until then, Carol Dallred will keep on running!

*References:* Farmer, Neal, *Houston Chronicle*, January 16, 1998  
Mayo Health Online at <http://mayohealth.org/mayo/9511/htm/multiple.htm>

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## BCCCP Briefs

### Spring Training

Spring Training is scheduled for **March 30 - 31** in Austin. The March 30th orientation session for new BCCCP personnel will be held at Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas. The March 31st Program Update will be held at the J.J. Pickle Research Center, 10100 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas. The registration deadline is March 24th. Call Rhonnda Jones or Lurah Scott at (800) 452-1955 to make reservations or for more information.

### Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

#### General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves  
Lurah Scott Rhonnda Jones

#### Professional Education, Clinical Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney  
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### Local Changes

Please call or write Rhonnda Jones, Administrative Technician, with **ANY** changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. *Thank you.*

## Case Management Survey to Define Practice

**B**reast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) providers recently responded to the first of a two-part survey on staff and resources used to conduct case management activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will consider information from the survey in defining a framework for case management for the national breast and cervical cancer screening program. Texas State office staff will join other states on a national workgroup to help define case management practices. The case management component of the BCCCP was passed into public law in October 1998.

The survey focuses on the core case management functions of intake, assessment, planning, resource development, referrals, direct care, monitoring and advocacy.

The first part of the survey

examined the time staff devote to performing these functions for women receiving BCCCP services. The survey also examined which staff members perform this function, their background and credentials.

The second part of the survey will be sent to providers at a later date. It will examine barriers identified by case managers and the assistance needed to carry out their functions. The survey also will look at special challenges for a case manager.

Any staff currently performing one or more of the case management functions must complete the survey. The survey was developed by a newly formed committee of the BCCCP. The committee consists of providers who currently have BCCCP case management funding and other TDH staff. For more information about the survey or BCCCP case management activities, contact Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator, at 800-452-1955.

## Provider QA Meeting a Success

**T**he Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) thanks all who participated in the December Provider Quality Assurance (PQA) video conference. Overall, the evaluations received were positive. BCCCP values Provider suggestions and find them useful for creating positive change in the Program.

Meeting minutes were distributed to all providers. In-

cluded with the minutes were the meeting agenda and charts and graphs used during the meeting.

The next PQA meeting will be held April 29, 1999. Video sites will be announced. Once priorities are set for the meeting, participants for the next meeting will be identified. If you have any questions about the meeting or quality assurance matters, contact Wanda Gibson, Public Health Technician, at 800-452-1955.

## Ask The Expert

*Don't forget, **you** can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.*

**Q**uestion: When will the Request for Proposals (RFP) for continued funding be available?

**A**nswer: The **tentative** mail out date for the Continuation Application is **March 15, 1999**. Providers must return a completed application postmarked no later than **April 26, 1999**. If you have any questions regarding the continuation application process, contact Robert Reeves, Program Administrator, at 800-452-1955.

## Blockbuster Brochure Available

**T**he Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program recently mailed to local providers brochures on the "Healthy Dose of Knowledge" video library available at selected Blockbuster Video stores.

The videos cover a wide range of women's health topics including breast cancer. We urge providers to visit with Blockbuster Video store managers and share information on available cancer screening services.

To order additional brochures, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, at 800-452-1955.

## Case Management Training

**D**id you miss the training, "Case Management: Sharing the Tools of the Trade" held in July 1998? The video and workbook used for the training are still available.

Developed by the National Training Center for the Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer, through a contract with ROW Sciences, this self-study package is designed to increase knowledge and skills in case management.

The videoconference originally aired by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in August 1997. To receive a copy of the training package, including the video and workbook, call Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator, at 800-452-1955.

## NCI Sets Guidelines on Informed Consent

**T**he National Cancer Institute (NCI) recommends simplified language for informed consent documents to make the forms more understandable to people.

In a recent mailing to Institutional Review Boards (IRB), hospitals, cancer centers, patient groups, and individual researchers, NCI offered specific guidelines for clarifying informed consent documents. Included with the recommendations were computer disks with a model form that investigators can use in developing their own documents.

The guidelines were devel-

oped by the Comprehensive Working Group on Informed Consent in Cancer Clinical Trials. The recommendations and model template were evaluated through a series of focus groups with patients, physicians, nurses, IRB members, communications and legal experts.

Although these guidelines were developed for use in clinical trials, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program providers may still find the information helpful in creating user-friendly consent forms.

Informed consent materials are available on the NCI Website for clinical trials, <http://cancertrials.nci.nih.gov>.

## Minority Cancer Awareness Week

The State office urges providers to promote services to medically underserved women during the National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, April 18-24. BCCCP recently sent a packet of information to providers to assist in promoting cancer awareness activities in your community. For more information, contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist or Steve Wright, Public Information Coordinator, at 800-452-1955.

### Did You Know?

- ◆ **Breast cancer death rates are highest among African American women in all age groups.**
- ◆ **Breast cancer mortality has increased among African American women but decreased for white women under the age of 65.**
- ◆ **The breast cancer five-year survival rate is lowest among African American women.**
- ◆ **The number of cancers diagnosed at a later stage is greater among African American women.**

### Texas BCCCP Data

Women Served\*: 109,500  
 Breast Screenings: 133,470  
 Cervical Screenings: 99,954  
 Breast Cancers: 688  
 Cervical Carcinoma in situ: 1,498  
 Invasive Cervical Cancer: 50

\*As of February 9, 1999

### Reminder:

Colorectal Cancer Screening surveys are due to the State office by **March 5, 1999.**

## Important Dates

### March

- March 2 - Texas Independence Day**  
Skeleton Crew at State office
- March 5 - Colorectal Survey due**
- March 15 - Distribution of continuation application (tentative)**
- March 24 - Registration deadline for BCCCP Training**
- March 30 - 31 - Training - Austin**  
Orientation & Program Update

### April

- April - Cancer Control Month**  
Contact American Cancer Society for more information
- April 18- 24 - Minority Cancer Awareness Week**
- April 21 - San Jacinto Day**  
Skeleton Crew at State office
- April 26 - Continuation application due (tentative)**
- April 28 - Final mammogram regulations implementing the federal Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 effective**
- April 29 - Provider Quality Assurance meeting**

### May

- May - National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month**
- May - National Osteoporosis Prevention Month**
- May 9 - Mother's Day**
- May 31 - Memorial Day**  
State Office Closed
- May 31 - World No Tobacco Day**

## Commitment

### A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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**1100 West 49th Street**  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION RE-  
 QUESTED